

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK AND JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND PRESERVATION DISTRICT

HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 2325

**TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF LAND FOR
ADDITION TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, IN THE STATE OF TEXAS**

H.R. 2416

**TO ESTABLISH THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND
PRESERVATION DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

NOVEMBER 12, 1987



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Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK AND JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND PRES- ERVATION DISTRICT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1987

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL
PARKS AND FORESTS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES,

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:05 p.m., in room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Wyche Fowler, Jr., presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. WYCHE FOWLER, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Senator FOWLER. Ladies and gentlemen, the purpose of the hearing this afternoon is to receive testimony on two measures currently pending before the subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests.

The first measure is H.R. 2325, a bill to authorize the acceptance of a donation of land for additions to Big Bend National Park in Texas.

The second measure is H.R. 2416, a bill to establish a Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District in the State of Georgia and for other purposes.

I will place copies of both of these measures in the hearing record. I will also place in the record statements in support of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site proposal from my colleague, Senator Sam Nunn, and Richard Ray, a Member of the House of Representatives from Georgia, who is a prime sponsor of the bill we are hearing today.

Also we would insert at this time a statement from Congressman Lamar Smith, the prime sponsor of the Big Bend legislation in Texas.

I want to add a personal word about these hearings on H.R. 2416 to authorize the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains. And I am extremely happy that my friends from Plains were able to make it this morning, after an unexpectedly long journey. The postmen always get through.

This bill was recently passed by the House of Representatives with the strong support of the Georgia delegation, as well as Congressman Richard Ray, in whose Congressional district the site

would be formed. And I am looking forward to our prompt consideration of it here in the Senate.

The creation of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site will do more than just honor one of our Nation's presidents. I believe this bill will help preserve an example of the type of small, rural American town that is fast disappearing from our Nation.

As part of the South's and America's heritage of agricultural-based communities, the Carter Historic Preservation District will remain testimony to the kind of hard-working basic values that produced not only President Jimmy Carter, but many of our Nation's finest leaders.

This bill will ensure that future generations of Americans have a chance to see and feel and experience the environment that was once representative of almost all of American life.

I understand that we have with us here for our first witness on Big Bend Mr. James Stewart, Acting Associate Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Stewart, we will start with you. I know you have got other fish to fry. And then we will go to the Carter District.

[The texts of the bills and statements for the record referred to follow:]

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2325

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 25), 1987

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the acceptance of a donation of land for addition to
Big Bend National Park, in the State of Texas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the boundaries of Big Bend National Park, established
4 by the Act of June 20, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 156), are hereby
5 revised to include the lands and interests therein, together
6 with all improvements thereon, within the area comprising
7 approximately sixty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty-
8 five acres as generally depicted on the map entitled "Harte
9 Ranch Addition, Big Bend National Park", numbered 155/
10 80,044 and dated September 1987. Such map shall be on file

1 and available for public inspection in the offices of the Na-
2 tional Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Secre-
3 tary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands and inter-
4 ests therein, together with all improvements thereon, within
5 the addition described in such map by donation, purchase
6 with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

Passed the House of Representatives October 5, 1987.

Attest:

DONNALD K. ANDERSON,

Clerk.

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2416

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 25), 1987

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To establish the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL
4 HISTORIC SITE.

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to provide for the ben-
6 efit, inspiration, and education of the American people, there
7 is hereby established the Jimmy Carter National Historic
8 Site in the State of Georgia. In administering the historic
9 site, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) preserve the key sites and structures located
2 within the historic site associated with Jimmy Carter
3 during his lifespan;

4 (2) provide for the interpretation of the life and
5 Presidency of Jimmy Carter; and

6 (3) present the history of a small rural southern
7 town.

8 (b) DESCRIPTION OF JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HIS-
9 TORIC SITE.—(1) The historic site shall consist of the lands
10 and interests in lands (including the real property described in
11 paragraph (2)) as generally depicted on the map entitled
12 “Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation Dis-
13 trict Boundary Map”, numbered NHS-JC-80000, and dated
14 April 1987. The map shall be on file and available for public
15 inspection at appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

16 (2) The real property referred to in paragraph (1) is that
17 real property which has significant historical association with
18 the life of James Earl Carter, Jr., 39th President of the
19 United States, located in the town of Plains and the County
20 of Sumter, Georgia, and described more particularly as
21 follows—

22 (A) the home of former President Carter on
23 Woodland Drive in Plains, Georgia, including the resi-
24 dence and approximately 2.9 acres across Woodland
25 Drive;

1 (B) the Plains Railroad Depot, adjacent to the
2 Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, which served as the
3 campaign headquarters of former President Carter;

4 (C) the boyhood home of former President Carter,
5 consisting of the residence, together with not more
6 than 15 acres, located west of Plains near the commu-
7 nity of Archery, Georgia;

8 (D) the 100-foot wide scenic easements on either
9 side of Old Plains Highway from the intersection of
10 U.S. Highway 280 to the boyhood home referred to in
11 subparagraph (C);

12 (E) the Plains High School and grounds of ap-
13 proximately 12 acres; and

14 (F) the Gnann House at 1 Woodland Drive,
15 which is adjacent to the residence referred to in sub-
16 paragraph (A) of former President Carter.

17 (c) ACQUISITION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROP-
18 ERTY.—(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection
19 and subject to such terms, reservations, and conditions as the
20 Secretary determines reasonable or necessary, the Secretary
21 may acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropri-
22 ated funds, exchange, or otherwise—

23 (A) lands and interests in lands within the bound-
24 aries of the historic site; and

1 (B) personal property and artifacts for purposes of
2 the historic site.

3 (2) The Carter home (described in subsection (b)(2)(A)),
4 the Plains Railroad Depot (described in subsection (b)(2)(B)),
5 and the Plains High School (referred to in subsection
6 (b)(2)(E)) may only be acquired by donation.

7 (3) Former President and Mrs. Carter may, as a condi-
8 tion of the acquisition of the Carter home (described in sub-
9 section (b)(2)(A)), reserve for themselves a right of use and
10 occupancy of the home for a term of years or for a term
11 ending at the deaths of President and Mrs. Carter.

12 (4) The Administrator of the General Services Adminis-
13 tration shall acquire by purchase the Gnann House (described
14 in subsection (b)(2)(F)) to be used for security purposes during
15 the lives of former President and Mrs. Carter, or for such
16 period as they may be entitled to security pursuant to Feder-
17 al law, after which time the Gnann House shall be trans-
18 ferred to the Secretary of the Interior for administrative
19 purposes by the National Park Service.

20 SEC. 2. JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT.

21 (a) JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL PRESERVATION DIS-
22 TRICT.—In order to preserve and interpret the life of James
23 Earl Carter, Jr. and the rural southern town of Plains, Geor-
24 gia, including the 20th century south and the roles of agricul-
25 ture and the agricultural economy there is hereby established

1 the Jimmy Carter National Preservation District, which shall
2 consist of the area identified on the map referred to in section
3 1(b)(1) as "Preservation District". The preservation district
4 shall include the Plains Historic District as listed in the Na-
5 tional Register of Historic Places on June 28, 1984, and
6 those agricultural lands not to exceed 650 acres and that
7 portion of Bond Street as depicted on such map.

8 (b) PRESERVATION EASEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary
9 may obtain by donation or purchase preservation easements
10 on historically or culturally significant (as determined by the
11 Secretary) buildings and open spaces located within the pres-
12 ervation district. Each preservation easement shall contain
13 (but need not be limited to) provisions that the Secretary
14 shall have the right of access at reasonable times to the por-
15 tions of the property covered by that easement for interpre-
16 tive or other purposes, and that no changes or alterations
17 shall be made to such portions of the property except by
18 mutual agreement.

19 (2) The Secretary may mark, interpret, and provide
20 technical assistance to properties within the preservation dis-
21 trict in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Stand-
22 ards for Historic Preservation Projects.

1 SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE AND PRESERVA-
2 TION DISTRICT.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the
4 historic site and the preservation district in accordance with
5 the provisions of this Act, and the provisions of law generally
6 applicable to national historic sites, including the Act entitled
7 “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other
8 purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4),
9 and the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preservation
10 of historic American sites, buildings, objects and antiquities of
11 national significance, and for other purposes”, approved
12 August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

13 (b) COOPERATION WITH STATE OF GEORGIA.—The
14 Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the
15 State of Georgia pursuant to which the Secretary may coop-
16 erate in the operation and use of the State of Georgia Visitor
17 Center in Sumter County.

18 (c) HISTORY.—The Secretary shall gather oral history
19 on the historic site, its occupants, and environs. The Secre-
20 tary may also preserve personal property that has been ac-
21 quired by the Secretary for purposes of the historic site.

22 (d) REPORT.—25 years after the date of enactment of
23 this Act, the Secretary shall convene a distinguished group of
24 nationally recognized historians, scholars, and other experts
25 to examine the life of President Carter in greater historical
26 perspective. The group shall examine the research then avail-

1 able on President Carter, his life and Presidency, and make
2 recommendations on interpretation, preservation, and other
3 issues (as appropriate) at the Jimmy Carter National Historic
4 Site and the Jimmy Carter National Preservation District.

5 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an
7 advisory commission to provide advice on achieving balanced
8 and accurate interpretation of the historic site.

9 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—(1) The commission shall consist of
10 a group of five nationally recognized scholars with collective
11 expertise on the life and Presidency of Jimmy Carter, the
12 20th century rural south, historic preservation, and the
13 American Presidency.

14 (2) The commission members shall be appointed by the
15 Secretary for staggered terms of 3 years each. Any vacancy
16 on the commission shall be filled in the same manner in
17 which the original appointment was made. Any member of
18 the Commission appointed for a definite term may serve after
19 the expiration of such term until a successor is appointed.

20 (3) Meetings of the Commission shall be called twice
21 annually by the Secretary.

22 (c) **EXPENSES.**—The Secretary is authorized to pay, in
23 accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code,
24 the expenses reasonably incurred by the members of the

1 Commission in carrying out their responsibilities under this
2 Act.

3 SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

4 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Con-
6 gress a general management plan for the use and develop-
7 ment of the historic site and the preservation district. Such
8 plan shall—

9 (1) be prepared in accordance with section 12(b)
10 of the Act entitled "An Act to improve the administra-
11 tion of the national park system by the Secretary, and
12 to clarify the authorities applicable to the system, and
13 for other purposes", approved August 18, 1970 (16
14 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.), and shall be consistent with the
15 purposes of this Act;

16 (2) include consideration of the economic feasibili-
17 ty and interpretive necessity of providing a transporta-
18 tion system for visitor use; and

19 (3) address the preservation and interpretation of
20 Plains High School (referred to in section 1(b)(2)(E))
21 including appropriate use by the town of Plains.

22 Following a determination of the appropriate uses of the
23 Plains High School for the town of Plains, the Secretary may
24 enter into a cooperative agreement with the town concerning
25 its use of the high school.

1 SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “preservation district” means the
4 Jimmy Carter National Preservation District estab-
5 lished under section 2;6 (2) the term “historic site” means the Jimmy
7 Carter National Historic Site established under sec-
8 tion 1; and9 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of
10 the Interior.

11 SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropri-
13 ated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act,
14 except that not more than \$3,500,000 is authorized to be
15 appropriated for acquisition of real and personal property (in-
16 cluding preservation easements) and development of the pres-
17 ervation district and the historic site.18 (b) COST SHARING.—Not more than 60 percent of the
19 aggregate cost of restoring the Plains High School (referred
20 to in section 1(b)(2)(E)) may be provided from appropriated
21 Federal funds. The remaining 40 percent, non-Federal share
22 of such cost may be in the form of cash, goods, or services,
23 fairly valued.

Passed the House of Representatives October 5, 1987.

Attest: DONNALD K. ANDERSON,
Clerk.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

November 10, 1987

The Honorable Dale Bumpers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my support for H.R. 2416, the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District Act.

The homes of American Presidents that have been preserved represent an invaluable resource for all Americans. They not only provide an opportunity to better understand the men who lived there, but show us much about the times in which they lived. But in preserving only the homes of major historical figures, we tend to lose much of the essence of ordinary life that would illuminate those times. We may not realize what made the "typical" places unique until they have been so changed that they have become unrecognizable.

As currently planned, the Jimmy Carter historical site and park would serve both these important purposes by preserving the homes of our 39th president, and key sites from the past of a small southern town. The high school and railroad depot were part of one President's boyhood, but they also represent a world that played an important part in American life for decades. Preserving them will help future generations comprehend the attitudes and actions that came out of that world.

The park and historic site are an especially appropriate way to honor President Jimmy Carter. The preservation of sites of special value to Americans was one of his priorities as President, as Governor of Georgia and throughout his life.

He set aside more land to be enjoyed by current and future generations than any other President -- 56 million acres -- tripling America's wilderness system. These lands contain some of the most magnificent landscapes in the world, and save irreplaceable natural systems.

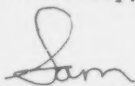
The Honorable Dale Bumpers
November 10, 1987
Page 2

As President, he also was a leader in both public and private historic preservation. His encouragement of private conversion and re-use of existing buildings contributed to the saving of many architecturally interesting structures that might otherwise have been lost by now. By getting Americans to take a second look before destroying older structures, he contributed immeasurably to our appreciation of the texture of our cityscapes and our architectural heritage, especially its human scale.

Jimmy Carter, as President, devoted himself to peace, human rights and the environment. The course of history will determine how much will survive of his legacy of concern for human rights and his efforts to further peace in the world. But we have an opportunity today to help enhance the legacy of safekeeping important bits of America's past so that future generations may better understand our history.

Therefore, I urge the passage of H.R. 2416 as it now stands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam Nunn

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN RICHARD RAY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND FORESTS
HEARING ON JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LEGISLATION

NOVEMBER 12, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN, I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF H.R. 2416, THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND PRESERVATION DISTRICT. I WANT TO THANK THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING TODAY.

EARLIER THIS YEAR I INTRODUCED, ALONG WITH THE ENTIRE GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, H.R. 2416, THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BILL. SENATORS FOWLER AND NUNN HAVE INTRODUCED SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE. THIS LEGISLATION PASSED THE HOUSE ON A VOICE VOTE ON OCTOBER 5, 1987.

THIS MEASURE SEEKS TO ESTABLISH AN HISTORIC SITE AND PRESERVATION DISTRICT IN PLAINS, GEORGIA TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR 39TH PRESIDENT. I HAVE INTRODUCED SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE PAST TWO CONGRESSES, AND AN EARLIER VERSION OF THIS BILL PASSED THE HOUSE LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THAT BILL DID NOT PASS UNTIL NEAR THE END OF THE 99TH CONGRESS, AND I

REGRET THAT THE SENATE DID NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON IT. SENATOR WALLOP, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS, TOLD ME AT THE TIME THAT HIS SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD NOT PASS THE BILL UNLESS THEY COULD HOLD A HEARING.

UNFORTUNATELY, TIME WAS TOO SHORT FOR SUCH A HEARING TO BE HELD.

I HAD INTENDED TO INTRODUCE AN IDENTICAL VERSION OF THIS EARLIER LEGISLATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 100TH CONGRESS. HOWEVER, LAST DECEMBER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CAME FORWARD WITH A PROPOSAL FOR AN HISTORIC SITE IN PLAINS. THIS PLAN ELIMINATED SOME OF THE PROPERTIES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED UNDER THE OLD BILL, AND IT ALSO CREATED A PRESERVATION DISTRICT WHICH THE OLD BILL DID NOT DO. IT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE CITIZENS OF PLAINS AS WELL AS PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER. THIS PARK SERVICE PROPOSAL IS THE BASIS FOR H.R. 2416.

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NUMBER OF PROPERTIES INCLUDING THE PRESENT CARTER HOME, A STRIP OF LAND ACROSS FROM THE PRESENT CARTER HOME ON WOODLAND DRIVE, THE PRESIDENT'S BOYHOOD HOME, THE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE RAILROAD DEPOT WHICH SERVED AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS. ALSO, THE GNANN HOUSE WHICH IS NEXT TO THE PRESENT

CARTER HOME AND CURRENTLY HOUSES THE SECRET SERVICE WILL BE ACQUIRED FOR USE BY THE PARK SERVICE.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR RESIDENCE AND THE LAND ACROSS WOODLAND DRIVE WILL BE DONATED TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. ALSO, THE CITY OF PLAINS WILL DONATE THE HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE PLAINS HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST WILL DONATE THE RAILROAD DEPOT. THE PRESERVATION TRUST IS ALSO WORKING TO ACQUIRE THE BOYHOOD HOME, SO THAT IT CAN BE DONATED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

TWO AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS DURING MARK-UP OF H.R. 2416. THE FIRST PLACED A CAP ON THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL FUNDS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC SITE. THIS CAP WAS SET AT \$3.5 MILLION. HOWEVER, I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THE PARK SERVICE HAS ESTIMATED THAT THE BILL'S COST WILL NOT EXCEED \$1.7 MILLION AT THIS TIME. THE HIGHER FIGURE IS TO ALLOW FOR INFLATION OR UNEXPECTED COSTS. THE OTHER AMENDMENT STIPULATED THAT NO MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE COST FOR RENOVATING THE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD COME FROM FEDERAL FUNDS.

THIS AMENDMENT REDUCES THE TOTAL COST OF THE BILL EVEN FURTHER. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH OF THESE AMENDMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED THE BILL WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE INTERIOR COMMITTEE.

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT H.R. 2416 BE ENACTED SO THAT WE CAN PRESERVE THE PLAINS AREA WHICH HAS SUCH SIGNIFICANCE IN THE LIFE OF ONE OF OUR PRESIDENTS. IT IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS FORMER PRESIDENT STILL RESIDES IN PLAINS AND HAS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE REGARDED PLAINS AS HOME. EVEN TODAY, ALTHOUGH THE CARTERS TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY, THEY STILL SPEND A MAJORITY OF THEIR TIME IN PLAINS.

PLAINS IS PROBABLY MORE CLOSELY TIED TO A PRESIDENT THAN THE HOMETOWN OF ANY OTHER PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER ARE PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN PRESERVING THEIR FAMILY HISTORY AND THE MEMORABILIA ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR PAST. THEY WANT TO MAINTAIN THE CHARACTER OF THEIR HOMETOWN, SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN GET AN ACCURATE, DETAILED PICTURE OF THE BACKGROUND AND ROOTS OF THIS PRESIDENT. I WISH ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE COULD VISIT THIS SMALL TOWN OF 680 PEOPLE.

DESPITE ALL THE PUBLICITY, THE CITY HAS CHANGED VERY LITTLE SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. THE CITIZEN'S OF PLAINS EFFORTS, AS WELL AS THE CARTER'S, IN PRESERVING THIS RURAL SOUTHERN COMMUNITY WILL MAKE THIS TOWN AN HISTORIC SITE PERHAPS MORE AUTHENTIC THAN ANY OTHER LIKE IT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY BILL WOULD CREATE A LIVING MUSEUM FOR A WAY OF LIFE WHICH IS QUICKLY FADING AWAY AND WOULD ALSO ALLOW FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME AND SEE HOW A FARM BOY WAS ABLE TO GO FROM A SMALL, RURAL TOWN TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I ENCOURAGE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE TO APPROVE H.R. 2416, THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BILL.



PLAINS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.

P.O. Box 1770 Plains, Georgia 31780

Telephone 912-824-3413

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November 10, 1987

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Donald Tanner
Rosalyn Carter
Buford Reese
Juanita Walton
Buck Jackson

Senator Dale Bumpers, Chairman
Sub-committee on Public Lands, National Parks & Forests
308 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510-6150

Dear Senator Bumpers:

As President of Plains Historical Preservation Trust and life-long resident of Plains, Georgia, I would like to respectfully request your cooperation in passing the proposed legislation to establish a National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains.

We continue to have visitors daily from around the world. Just last week we had visitors from seven foreign countries and twenty-five different states. The local citizens have done all we can with our limited resources to provide something interesting for them to see, but we need some help in setting up and maintaining the most important points of interest to the tourists.

Plains is unique in that it produced a United States President and has still maintained its little country town atmosphere. People are impressed by this, and we would like to keep it this way.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in getting this legislation passed and will be happy to assist you in anything you might call upon me to do.

Sincerely,

P. J. Wise

P. J. Wise



Home of Our
39th President

Plains, Georgia
November 9, 1967

Senator Dale Bumpers
The Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks & Forests
306 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Bumpers:

I have been a resident of Plains, Ga. since July 1956. My husband and I chose to become citizens and have never regretted our choice.

Since Jimmy Carter announced he would run for the Presidency in 1976, I have been involved with his campaign and all other community activities. I have been an active participant in the history that has been made here.

Today, I want to ask you and your committee to please approve the legislation for the Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District and send it to the floor for a vote.

The people of Plains are happy and encouraged by the passage of House Bill H.R. 2416. We feel we have already made a place in history. We want to preserve what we have here before time and decay take a toll. There are only 683 of us. We have worked hard on preservation, but we need your help and expertise. We feel what we have should be preserved for future generations. We have a way of life that is fast fading from the American scene.

I urge you and your committee to support the companion Senate Bill S. 1779.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Reese

Maxine Reese
President Elect
Plains Historical Preservation
Trust

*Maranatha Baptist Church**Of**Plains**Plains, Georgia 31750*

November 6, 1987

Senator Dale Bumpers
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests
308 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6150

Dear Senator Bumpers:

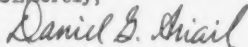
I am writing to ask your support of Senate Bill 1779 to establish a national historic site in Plains.

Although I have been a citizen of Plains for only five years, I have come to appreciate the unique cultural heritage which is part and parcel of Plains but which is also a valuable part of our national heritage. Only here do we have within a small area the school building at which a future President was educated, the building in which he was born, the home in which he grew up, the depot which formed the hub of a national political campaign, and the home which he and his wife built for their permanent dwelling.

I am on the board of directors of the Plains Historical Preservation Trust, and I am deeply concerned that action be taken to preserve the sites which make up the Carter legacy. Although we are a few folk from a small town, we have worked very hard to maintain the structures and sites entrusted to us; I fervently hope that our federal government will act quickly so that these sites will not be lost or drastically changed before it is too late.

I shall deeply appreciate any assistance which you may give toward this goal.

Sincerely,



Daniel G. Ariail

WILLIAMS WAREHOUSE, INC.

DEALERS IN
FERTILIZERS AND ALL FARM PRODUCTS
TELEPHONE 824-5245 — 824-4611

PLAINS' GEORGIA 31780

Nov. 6, 1987

Senator Dale Lumpers
Chairman, Sub-Committee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forest
308 Dirksen, Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510-6150

Dear Senator,

I am writing this letter in support of H.R. 2416 and
Companion Bill S-1779, urging you to support the establishment
of a National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains,
Ga.

I was born in Plains in 1919, grew up on a farm about
three miles north west of Plains - went to Plains High School
from grades 1 through 11. My wife, Virginia, was a classmate
of Pres. Jimmy Carter, graduating from High School with him in
1941.

We both are proud of President Carter - coming from
humble beginnings, serving as Senator, Governor of Georgia, and
finally President of the United States, the highest office in
our great land.

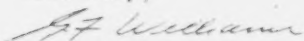
In our family business here in Plains, we buy and sell
peanuts, operate a peanut shelling plant and sell farmers various
supplies that they use to make a crop.

Every day we talk to visitors, coming through our little
town, and they are anxious to see something, to learn something of
the background of a man coming from such a small community as ours,
yet attaining the most powerful position in the world.

I am also serving as Treasury of the Plains Historical
Preservation Trust, and from this position I see the interest
people show in wanting this Historic Site preserved, because we
have members as far away as New York and Canada. And by preserving
Plains as it is now, it will give future generations an opportunity
to come and see this small town way of life.

Again, I ask you to declare Plains, Georgia a National
Historic Site.

Sincerely,



G. T. Williams, Jr.
Pres. Williams Warehouse, Inc.

Statement for the record

by

HON. LAMAR SMITH

REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, PUBLIC LANDS, and FORESTS

of the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UNITED STATES SENATE

November 12, 1987

I very much appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of legislation to authorize the addition of 67,000 acres to Big Bend National Park in Texas. My bill, H.R. 2325, passed the House without dissent on October 5th. I am grateful that Senators Gramm and Bentson have sponsored companion legislation in the Senate, S. 1636.

This legislation would allow the National Park Service to accept donation of property known as the Harte Ranch or North Rosillas Mountains Preserve. This tract is currently owned and under the able stewardship of the Texas Nature Conservancy. In 1985, it was donated to the Conservancy by its previous long-time owners, Ed and Houston Harte, with the stipulation that it would be retained in its natural state and donated to Big Bend National Park as soon as possible.

The land itself is a varied mix of desert, mountains and prairie. It includes approximately one-fourth of the Rosillas Mountains, as well as their highest peak. It also contains Buttrill Springs, the most productive spring in the Rosillas range which supports an abundant oasis around it.

The Trans-Pecos region in West Texas forms the northern boundary of the Chihuahuan desert, and it is widely recognized for its great beauty and astonishing natural diversity. Some 736 rare or unique plant and animal species have been recorded in the Trans-Pecos area. This constitutes more than a third of the species identified by the Texas Natural Heritage Program as being

globally significant. The land also contains archeological sites that illustrate the human history of the region, including remnants from prehistoric peoples, Indian cultures, and early ranching operations.

I am happy to report that the land comes generally unencumbered. There are no oil or gas leases in effect, and there are only two tracts owned by other than the Nature Conservancy. Both are accessible by public roads, and can be treated as "inholdings," which are common in the National Park system, including the current Big Bend Park area.

One of these tracts is a 10,000 acre parcel owned by former Ambassador Albert Pay, which includes a conservation easement. The bill would transfer this easement to the Park Service, thus preserving the viewshed in Big Bend and preventing encroaching development. Both inholders have expressed to me their support for this legislation.

I am glad to note that this initiative has the support of the administration and the Governor of Texas. The bill has the enthusiastic support of the Brewster County executive as well as the Chamber of Commerce in Alpine, the seat of Brewster County. I want to thank the representatives and members of the Texas Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and the National Parks and Conservation Association for their support of this measure.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this kind of public-private partnership can become an important part of our continuing efforts to preserve America's natural, historic and cultural resources. Thanks to the generosity of the Harte brothers and the Texas Nature Conservancy, we have an excellent opportunity to acquire this land at no cost to the taxpayers, and to preserve an important part of our natural heritage for future generations.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to address the subcommittee on this important issue.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

10 AUG 1967

Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lamar:

Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2325, the bill that you introduced to authorize the acceptance of a donation of 67,000 acres to be added to Big Bend National Park.

This office does review positions taken by the Executive agencies on pending legislation to coordinate review among agencies and to assure that the position conforms to Administration policies. With respect to major donations of lands, the major questions are:

1. What is the cost to the Federal Government in terms of tax revenue foregone and the future costs of protecting, developing, operating, and maintaining the property?
2. What is the value to the Nation of taking ownership of the property?

I am pleased to inform you that our review disclosed no reason to be concerned with accepting this property. We are not aware of any adverse tax implications of the Texas Nature Conservancy transfer to Big Bend National Park. According to the National Park Service, this is a very desirable property and future operating costs are minimal. Thus, the Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Administration, testified in favor of H.R. 2325 on July 30th.

Please let me know whenever we may be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Miller III
Director



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
GOVERNOR

September 11, 1987

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U. S. House of Representatives
509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515-4321

Dear Congressman Smith:

I wish to express my support for H.R. 2325, a bill which would allow the National Park Service to accept the donation of the tract of land known as the Harte Ranch to become part of the Big Bend National Park. The addition of such a beautiful tract of land to the Big Bend would be a fine complement to the rest of the park.

The 57,000 acre ranch, currently owned by the Texas Nature Conservancy, is the home of the largest private natural refuge in the world, the North Rosillos Mountains Preserve. An astonishingly diverse array of plant and animal life make this rugged, austere landscape a truly valuable part of the Trans-Pecos region of Texas.

I commend you for sponsoring this legislation, which will contribute to an increase in the pride which all Texans feel for the Big Bend National Park. If I can be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor

WPC:rbvh

STATEMENT OF JAMES W. STEWART, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY JIM CARRICO, SUPERINTENDENT, BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Mr. STEWART. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. We appreciate the opportunity to provide the subcommittee with testimony on H.R. 2325.

This is Superintendent Jim Carrico from the park, who is accompanying me this afternoon. The bill calls for acceptance of the donation of approximately 67,100 acres of land adjacent to Big Bend National Park, called the Harte Ranch.

In the interest of brevity, I would simply like to recommend enactment of the bill, and ask that the statement be inserted in the record. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Senator FOWLER. Without objection, so ordered.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Stewart follows:]

STATEMENT OF JAMES W. STEWART, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 2325, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF LAND FOR ADDITION TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS.

NOVEMBER 12, 1987

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide your Subcommittee with the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 2325. I am accompanied this afternoon by Jim Carrico, the Superintendent of Big Bend National Park.

We recommend the enactment of the bill, if amended to authorize acquisition of the property by donation only.

H.R. 2325, which passed the House of Representatives on October 5, 1987, would revise the boundary of Big Bend National Park and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept the 67,100-acre Harte Ranch for addition to the park. The ranch is located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the park, immediately north of the Rosillos Ranch, which was authorized for addition to the park by the Act of December 28, 1980.

Big Bend National Park was authorized by the Act of June 20, 1935. It contains approximately 708,118 acres of Federal land and 33,000 acres of non-Federal land. The park combines the scenery, vegetation, and animal life represented by the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, the Chihuahuan Desert, and the mountains. Visitation to the park was more than 200,000 in 1986. The park was designated a Biosphere Reserve in 1976.

The Harte Ranch lies immediately west of the north entrance road to the park. The ranch has a contiguous boundary with the park for approximately 15 miles and contains the northern portion of the extremely scenic Rosillos Mountains. Buttrell Springs, the most consistently productive spring in the Rosillos Mountains is on the property.

In 1977, the National Park Service began to explore a possible donation of the Harte Ranch for addition to Big Bend National Park, in order to assure protection of the scenic values of the ranch and those of the northern portion of the park. In 1984 the owners completed the donation of the property to the Texas Nature Conservancy, with the stipulation that it be transferred to the National Park Service for purposes of Big Bend National Park. Enactment of H.R. 2325 would enable us to accept the donation from the Conservancy.

There is temporary grazing on part of the ranch, which will be phased out shortly following the transfer to the National Park Service. The Conservancy has sold 10,000 acres of the ranch to a third party, subject to a conservation easement, which prevents subdivision into units smaller than 5,000 acres. This parcel is used for grazing.

On the Conservancy property to be donated, there is a three-bedroom ranch home, occupied by the ranch foreman; a two-bedroom ranch house; a hunting lodge; and several outbuildings and corrals on the property. The Conservancy plans to use the lodge for another 10 years; the National Park Service will use the other two houses for employee or volunteer quarters.

The National Park Service has no plans for immediate development of the Harte Ranch. We will update the general management plan after the property is donated, and during that process any potential developments would be identified. Hiking and camping are the contemplated public uses of the area. We estimate that acceptance of the donation will result in an increase of only \$15,000 in annual operating costs, chiefly for additional patrol mileage.

Mr. Chairman, the State of Texas owns 14,680 acres of the subsurface estate, and we would expect to work with the State for a donation of its subsurface interests. The only other third-

party interests are the 10,000-acre parcel, which I mentioned earlier, and three private tracts completely or partially surrounded by the Conservancy lands totalling 1,280 acres. The conservation easement on the 10,000 acres will be donated by the Conservancy. We may explore a donation of these other interests with the owners, but we have no assurances that donations will occur. Although the bill would authorize purchase of these other interests, we have no plans at this time to exercise purchase authority and we have no firm estimates of their acquisition cost. Therefore, we recommend that the authorization for purchase or exchange in H.R. 2325 be deleted. Even if we cannot obtain donations of these interests initially, we believe the very positive result of having the Conservancy property far outweighs any minor uncertainties that these third-party interests may represent. We therefore endorse this legislation with the change that we suggest.

This concludes my prepared remarks, Mr. Chairman. We would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

Senator FOWLER. Just tell me briefly, this is a single tract that is under private ownership now?

Mr. STEWART. There are a number of different tracts but most of the land is owned by the Texas Conservancy. The conservancy is willing to donate the land. It is called the Harte Ranch. There are a number of private owners in there, but we are only asking for acquisition by donation.

Senator FOWLER. Is it contiguous to the present Big Bend Park?

Mr. STEWART. Yes, it is. On the bottom part of the map there, the line is shown, the existing boundary of the park.

Senator FOWLER. And the tail is the Harte Ranch?

Mr. STEWART. All above it is the Harte Ranch. That is right.

Senator FOWLER. Both Senator Gramm and Senator Bentsen of Texas have indicated their support for this bill, I am pleased to report.

Well, it is nice to have a gift. For the record, it does not cost us anything. Does it?

Mr. STEWART. A little operational money.

Senator FOWLER. Well, that does not count. You can count a few more armadillos down there, and make sure the people do not get lost without any undue—

Mr. STEWART. It is a fine addition to the park. It is next to the Rosillos Mountains, and is a very scenic area.

As you approach the park from the north, by way of Persimmon Gap, you get a good view of the mountains behind it. It will be a fine addition to the park.

Senator FOWLER. I have never been to Big Bend, but I have read an awful lot about it. I hope to remedy that soon, with the extra 67,100 acres. Thank you, Mr. Stewart, very much.

Mr. STEWART. You are welcome.

Senator FOWLER. Now, we have Mr. Robert Baker, the Regional Director of the Southeast Region. Mr. Baker is the Regional Director of the Park Service, Southeast Region, Department of the Interior.

Welcome. We are going to shed a little light on your testimony. That will be good. We are glad to have you. Proceed as you will. You can submit your entire statement for the record, and summarize if you would like to.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT M. BAKER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN TUCKER, SUPERINTENDENT, ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. BAKER. Yes, I will. And I would like to introduce Superintendent John Tucker, who is the Superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site, who has been our point person at Plains, Georgia, and has done a tremendous job.

Senator FOWLER. We welcome you, Mr. Tucker.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on this legislation.

We recommend the enactment of H.R. 2416, with amendments which would delete some unnecessary and costly provisions.

This historic site would encompass the key resources having significant historical association with the life of President Carter. As you have suggested, it would allow the National Park Service to protect and interpret a very important part of America's cultural heritage.

This site would consist of the following properties, and I would ask the Superintendent to point these out as we go through them. First of all, the residence of President Carter and Mrs. Carter, and approximately 2.9 acres across Woodland Drive from their residence. They would be donating that.

The Plains Railroad Depot, which served as the campaign headquarters for President Carter. That would also be donated. The boyhood home of the former President, and not more than 15 acres west of Plains near Archery, Georgia.

Senator FOWLER. That would be donated?

Mr. BAKER. No. We would acquire that by purchase. There is some acquisition involved in that regard.

A 100-foot-wide strip corridor on either side of Old Plains highway to protect the scenic values between the intersection of Route 280 and the boyhood home.

The Plains High School and the grounds of approximately 12 acres. That is an area, a building that we do not feel is absolutely essential to tell this story, and it is quite costly in terms of the restoration of it.

And the Gnann house, which is presently used by GSA and the Secret Service for protection of the President. It is adjacent to his present home. We would defer to GSA if they actually acquire that and turn it over to the National Park Service, that would be an addition to this entire site. We do not believe that it is essential to tell this story.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. And if there are any specific questions you have, I or the Superintendent would be happy to answer those.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Baker follows:]

STATEMENT OF ROBERT M. BAKER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 2416, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND PRESERVATION DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

NOVEMBER 12, 1987

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on this legislation.

We recommend the enactment of H.R. 2416, but only if amended to delete some unnecessary and costly provisions.

H.R. 2416, which passed the House of Representatives on October 5, 1987, would establish the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains, Georgia. The historic site would encompass a number of specific sites associated with the life of President Carter. These include:

--The residence of President Carter and approximately 2.9 acres across Woodland Drive from the residence;

--The Plains Railroad Depot which served as the campaign headquarters for President Carter;

--The boyhood home of the former President and not more than 15 acres west of Plains near Archery, Georgia;

--A 100-foot wide corridor on either side of the Old Plains Highway to protect the scenic values between the intersection of Route 280 and the boyhood home;

--The Plains High School and grounds of approximately 12 acres; and

--The Gnann house adjacent to the Carter home.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to acquire lands and interests in lands within the boundary and personal property and artifacts for purposes of the historic site. The Carter home, Plains Railroad Depot, and the Plains High School may only be acquired by donation. Former President and Mrs. Carter may reserve a right of use and occupancy for a term of years or the remainder of their lives. The Gnann House is to be acquired by the General Services Administration to be used for security purposes for the Carters and ultimately transferred to the National Park Service. The Gnann House is currently leased by the Federal Government and used to provide security protection for the Carters.

Within the preservation district, which encompasses approximately 650 acres, the Secretary would be authorized to acquire preservation easements by donation or purchase to protect historic or culturally significant buildings and open spaces. The Secretary also would be authorized to mark, interpret, and provide technical assistance to properties within the district.

H.R. 2416 also would authorize a cooperative agreement with the State of Georgia for the use of the State's visitor center in Sumter County; the bill directs the Secretary to compile an oral history of the historic site, its occupants, and environs; and the bill directs the Secretary to convene a distinguished group of historians and scholars in 25 years to examine the life of President Carter and make recommendations on interpretation at the site. It also calls for the development of a general management plan within three years including consideration of a transportation system and how the Plains High School can be preserved. The bill authorizes cooperative agreements for use of the school by the town of Plains. The bill also directs the Secretary to establish a five-member advisory commission of recognized scholars.

-3-

Mr. Chairman, enactment of H.R. 2416 would establish a national historic site to commemorate the life of President Carter in Plains, Georgia. It would include a number of sites that are significant and represent key locations and time periods in the life of President Carter. The bill also includes a number of sites and provisions that are unnecessary and costly and should be deleted.

As we proposed in 1985 and again this past September in the House of Representatives with the transmittal of a substitute bill, we believe the national historic site should include:

- the Carter residence and grounds of approximately 9.26 acres on Woodland Drive in Plains, Georgia;
- 2.9 acres of additional land across the street from the Carter residence;
- the former Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company depot with approximately .10 acre in Plains; and
- the Carter boyhood home and approximately 15 acres in Achery, Georgia, and easements on about 35 acres of road frontage in the vicinity of the boyhood home.

We oppose the addition of the Plains High School and grounds and the establishment of the preservation district. These provisions are not necessary for the purposes of the national historic site and expose the Federal Government to substantial costs in restoring the high school and acquiring easements within the preservation district. We defer to the General Services Administration as to the desirability of acquiring the Gann property for purposes of providing security for the Carters.

Mr. Chairman, we recommend the following amendments:

1. Delete the inclusion of the high school, preservation district, and Gnann House from section 1(b) and conform other sections as necessary.
2. Delete section 2, which establishes the preservation district, in its entirety.
3. Delete the requirement in section 3(d) that a group of scholars be convened in 25 years, because it duplicates the functions of the advisory commission established in section 4; and
4. Reduce the funds authorized in section 7(a) to \$75,000 for acquisition of the boyhood home and easements, and authorize such sums as may be necessary for development of the national historic site.

The cost of purchasing properties that will not be donated is estimated to be \$135,000. This includes the Gnann House to be acquired by GSA, the boyhood home and grounds, and easements on the 36 acres along the Old Plains Highway. Development and annual operations costs cannot be determined at this time. The National Park Service does not expect to be actually operating the existing Carter residence for some years, and operational responsibilities may be shared between the National Park Service and non-Federal entities in varying degrees at the site.

This concludes my prepared remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Baker, what value do you place on the donations by the Carter family?

Mr. BAKER. We have really not done an appraisal on those, Senator Fowler. I can supply that for the record, if you would like.

Senator FOWLER. I wish you would. We have got the residence being donated. We have got the Plains Railroad Depot being donated.

Now what about Plains High School? I thought that was going to be donated.

Mr. BAKER. Well, the building itself is now in the hands of the city. It has been donated to the city, and the city has it.

Our concern would be the costly renovation that would be involved. We would not propose that it be donated to the National Park Service.

Senator FOWLER. Only because of the anticipated renovation cost down the road?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, sir. I would make another point in regards to the high school.

Certainly there is a story to be told there, and we think it should be told. But the extent of the high school, if you have seen it, is quite large, and it would be far beyond the needs that we would have in the National Park Service to interpret that story. But the high school is an important part of the story.

Senator FOWLER. Yes, but you cannot chop up the high school. You either have the high school or you do not have the high school.

I suppose you can always shut down the top couple of stories. It is in the bill, as you know, requiring donation. We are not putting acquisition money in for that.

The bill says, not more than 60 percent of the aggregate cost of restoring the Plains High School may be provided from appropriated Federal funds. The remaining 40 percent, non-Federal share of such costs may be in the form of cash goods and services fairly valued.

So we have a cost-sharing in there. I hope that you would look at that again.

We have so few sites anyway, because this town is so small and is so rural, that it would seem to me that telling the story from boyhood to maturity as President, that the high school would be essential.

If we are getting it free with cost-sharing, it seems to me that it certainly would not be an overwhelming burden in the long run on the Park Service to find a way to maintain it.

So I hope you will look at that again. I would like to have the figures on what you estimate the cost to be of restoration, taking a look at that in light of overall donation of the Carter family with these other buildings.

Mr. BAKER. I will, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FOWLER. Now tell me, I missed the point. What is this other building where the FBI used to be?

Mr. BAKER. It is the Gnann building. It is an old residence, and the Secret Service is presently using it as their site. GSA is renting it. We would defer to GSA as to its acquisition.

Senator FOWLER. My understanding from reading the bill is that the bill directs the GSA to acquire it, and then to donate it to the Park Service. Why would you object to that?

Mr. BAKER. If GSA acquires it, I think that would be fine. We would defer to their judgment on that.

Senator FOWLER. You would defer to their cash.

Mr. BAKER. Yes.

Senator FOWLER. Well, that is the way the bill has it. So the only amendment that you would really want to, the only deletion you are testifying to is the Plains High School.

Mr. BAKER. There is another amendment that we would suggest.

There is a proposed group of scholars that would be convened 25 years from the time of passage of this bill to take a look and recommend to the National Park Service interpretive facets of the total life of Jimmy Carter.

Obviously, he is still actively involved in a lot of issues. There is a proposal in the House bill that suggests that a group of scholars would be convened 25 years to take a look at that.

We also have an advisory commission that would be established right now, and we are recommending that that advisory commission could play that role as well.

Senator FOWLER. All right. Well, we will take a look at that. That is certainly not crucial to the development of the site. And I will ask the staff and all of our sponsors to take a look at that, Mr. Baker.

This is Senator Frank Murkowski from Alaska. Welcome, Frank. Thank you for coming.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Baker, the cost of purchasing properties is estimated at \$135,000.

Mr. BAKER. That is correct, sir.

Senator MURKOWSKI. And the \$3.5 million, or thereabouts, represents the development costs of the properties that are not to be donated, plus those that are donated?

I want to make sure I understand the explanation of the \$3.5 million.

Mr. BAKER. It would be primarily the cost of restoration that would be associated with those properties that would be acquired, as well as donated.

Senator MURKOWSKI. What is the current fair market value of those properties that are going to be donated?

Mr. BAKER. That is a figure that I do not have and I will supply it to the Committee.

Senator FOWLER. I asked him that before.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Who is going to ascertain that value?

Mr. BAKER. That is something I am going to have to check into. We have appraisers in the National Park Service, and I would assume that we will ask our appraisers to take a look at it.

Senator MURKOWSKI. In that particular part of the state, is there a tax base based on 100 percent of value, from the standpoint of some current base of comparison?

Mr. BAKER. It is 40 percent.

Senator MURKOWSKI. If it is 40 percent of appraised value, then I would assume that the state or county would have an assessed evaluation of the property. You do not know what that is?

Mr. BAKER. I do not know what it is, no.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be interesting for the record.

In appraising a property such as this, I guess in the private sector it is referred to as goodwill, and I am searching for the terminology that would be appropriate in the sense of the value of Presidential property.

Senator FOWLER. I do not think they are putting that into it. I would like to think that, but I do not think so. Not if they appraise the property the way they usually do.

They will look at it just like any other real estate and what that would sell for, as if it were not occupied by a President. Is that not correct, Mr. Baker?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, sir. That is correct. Fair market value.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Then it would be interesting for the record to note what the current appraised value of the property using whatever the local assessment procedure is, and the appraisal that will be developed by the Park Service.

Do you use private sector appraisers?

Mr. BAKER. In some cases we do. We have appraisers on the staff as well.

Senator MURKOWSKI. In this case, do you have appraisers that are necessarily familiar with property values?

Mr. BAKER. Oh, yes. You would do an evaluation of what the market sales have been in the area, and make an assessment.

We do that regularly in the Southeast Region, in my office. We have an office of real estate, and we could do that appraisal.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Since you are a participant in this, would you not want an independent appraiser?

Mr. BAKER. Well, we would obviously, if the bill passes, and if we purchase the parcels that we are proposing to acquire, have to have an appraisal. We would pay fair market value.

On the properties that are being donated, we would not necessarily have an appraisal. But my understanding is that the Chairman would like to have an appraisal on the donated property as well, and we will have to—

Senator FOWLER. What I want is simply a rough idea, for lack of a better term, of what the President and his family are donating to the United States of America.

What I do not want, Mr. Baker, is, it would take all of half an afternoon to go look at these three or four buildings. And I would like to think that all of these questions that we are asking you, these appraisal figures, can be submitted within the next two weeks.

Mr. BAKER. I think they can too, and I will, sir.

Senator FOWLER. No use to make, excuse the terminology, a Federal case out of a boyhood home that is sitting there.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Is it not appropriate that the family would want to have a deduction as a consequence of the donation?

Senator FOWLER. I do not know the answer to that.

Senator MURKOWSKI. I will ask the question. Is that a likely consideration, that the donation would have some tax deductible benefit?

Mr. BAKER. The answer is yes, it would.

Senator MURKOWSKI. So in order to do that, to satisfy the IRS, there would have to be an evaluation for the donated property.

Mr. BAKER. The owners who would donate it, of course, would have that assessment, and that would be something that would be purely between them and the IRS. We would not normally get involved.

Senator MURKOWSKI. That is just to note the necessity of the contribution having to have an assessed evaluation or an appraisal to meet the criteria of the IRS.

Mr. BAKER. I understand what you are looking for, and I think we could easily get that.

Senator MURKOWSKI. So the big expenditure is the improvements. That is where the \$3.5 million is going, I guess.

Senator FOWLER. The future improvements to the site. That is correct.

Senator MURKOWSKI. One other question. I have observed the process of the Department of the Interior in what it costs them to provide an adequate site for this or any other thing.

Is it customary that you have an architect do detailed drawings and draw up specifications? And then do you go out for bid, and you acquire a bid bond, so that you have the assurance that it is going to be done according to those specifications? And if the contractor goes broke, is there a bonding company there to pick up the project? Or do you do it some other way?

Mr. BAKER. No, that is correct. We would be greatly concerned about not only having an architect, an historic architect.

We are talking about a building that has national significance from a historic standpoint. So we would be looking at it from the standpoint of restoration, according to the Secretary's standards for historic preservation. That it is accurately done, and in all likelihood it would be done under contract.

Senator MURKOWSKI. So the Park Service would not be doing it themselves.

Mr. BAKER. In all likelihood, it would. And if it were a very minor job that we could do, and I would—

Senator MURKOWSKI. I would like the record to note, Mr. Chairman, that I would certainly encourage a turnkey competitive job, as opposed to these open-ended situations where the Park Service has to come back for more money to finish it because they have either tried to do it themselves and they did not have enough money, or they did not put out specs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Baker, thank you. And please try to get us that information in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. BAKER. I will. Thank you very much.

Senator FOWLER. Gentlemen, we just got called for a vote.

I think it would be cleaner if I recess and go vote and be back in about 10 minutes, rather than trying to go for 10 minutes and then coming back. So I will be back within 10 minutes.

[Recess.]

[Subsequent to the hearing the Department of the Interior submitted the following:]



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58(180)

NOV 19

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

At the hearing on November 12, 1987, concerning H.R. 2416, the proposed Jimmy Carter National Historic Site legislation, we were requested to provide responses to questions for the hearing record. Enclosed is our response to one of the questions; additional information will be provided when we receive it from our field offices.

We appreciate the opportunity to supplement our testimony.

Sincerely,

William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director

Enclosure

QUESTION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

1. In your September 30th report on this measure in the House, you indicated support for a substitute measure that would also designate a Richard Nixon Historic Site.

Do you still support this approach? If not, why did you change your view?

Answer: We do not recommend the adoption of the substitute measure at this time. The reason for not recommending the Richard Nixon National Historic Site is that we have been advised the Nixon Birthplace Foundation wishes to proceed with operation of the Nixon birthplace site in California using private funds, and does not wish to seek Federal legislation ~~at this time~~. We defer to the wishes of the Foundation.

Senator FOWLER. All, right, our last panel, Mr. Bruce Craig, Cultural Resources Coordinator, National Parks Conservation Association, Washington, Millard F. Simmons, City Councilman from Plains metropolis, and Mr. George A. Harper, Plains Historic Preservation Trust.

Gentlemen, welcome to you, and again I apologize for our break. But we will not have any trouble now finishing up. And I thank you for your patience.

Mr. Craig, would you like to begin?

STATEMENT OF BRUCE CRAIG, CULTURAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR, NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. CRAIG. Thank you. You have to excuse my cold today.

I am speaking today on behalf of the National Parks and Conservation Association. We are a private non-profit membership-based organization that seeks to promote the preservation, protection, and public understanding of our Nation's national park system.

Mr. Chairman, today our association appreciates the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.R. 2416, legislation to establish the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. We are pleased to support this legislation with no amendments.

We feel that the amended legislation, as passed by the House of Representatives this last October, is appropriate. However, we would like to suggest some report language changes.

I am not going to detail those in the testimony here today. They are in the record, and your staff can take a look at our comments.

We feel that this legislation serves as a very good model for subsequent legislation that can set aside other National Historic Sites for the other presidents, Nixon, Ford, and Reagan, and future presidents.

We feel in particular this legislation serves as model legislation for a couple of reasons. First off, it calls for the preservations of sites that are principally associated with the individual's presidency.

It also calls for a Federal, state, and local preservation partnership to preserve those historical sites of secondary significance, such as the Plains High School. We also feel very strongly about the convening of the group of historians and scholars to assess the life of the President, both the advisory commission approach, and also the approach to have the reassessment after 25 years.

Sometimes it proves very valuable to have a total reassessment, very serious indepth look at a Presidency, or any other major historical event. So therefore we feel that both the advisory committee and also the scholarly group ought to be provided for by this bill.

As you have mentioned, this site lends itself to more than simply a commemoration of the Carter Presidency. Because of the size of the land base, particularly because of the size of the Preservation District, Jimmy Carter is unique in that it will preserve a story of our rich agricultural heritage as is found in our rural communities in virtually every state of the union.

But we think that also the Jimmy Carter site lends itself to interpretation of several additional themes, that we would like to see

mentioned, at least, in the report, in addition to the history of the small, rural Southern town.

For example, the emergence of the New South, the role that agriculture and agricultural economy has played in the South as well.

We think that this site also will lend itself very well to tracing the story of the decline of the segregated South, and the evolution of the civil rights and human rights movements which were aspects of President Carter's Presidency that he had a very profound effect upon.

We also feel that presidential sites can be used to interpret changes in attitudes and lifestyles of the American society. And it is for that reason that we recommend some insertion of language to this extent.

We also feel that presidential sites need not always include birthplaces and related landscapes that are even structures.

But we feel in this case, because President Carter is more closely associated with a hometown community than any other President, we feel that it seems wholly appropriate to take the comprehensive preservation approach that has been taken in this bill to preserve and interpret the community in which President Carter lived, that of Plains, Georgia.

We support the preservation of the site of the residence, the boyhood home, the Plains Railroad Depot, Gmann house, and the Plains High School.

Today we wish to make a note that in our House testimony relating to this bill several months ago, we felt that the Plains High School should not be part of the National Historic Site.

But we now believe that because of the arrangement that has been made as far as the property being acquired only through donation, and also the fact that only 40 percent of the roughly \$1.5 million that is going to be needed for the restoration is going to be coming from Federal entities.

We feel also that a partnership of Federal and non-Federal entities, including the state government, the local historical and preservation organizations, should play an active role in the preservation of the Nation's heritage.

The only other thing that I wanted to make mention of is the inclusion of the provision in Section 3(b), which calls for the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Georgia for the operation and use of the State of Georgia Visitors Center.

We would like to suggest that some report language be included that would allow the NPS, if it is necessary to operate a separate Visitors Center, if it becomes deemed to be in the best interests of the visiting public.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony, and I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Craig follows:]



STATEMENT OF BRUCE CRAIG
CULTURAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR
NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS
AND FORESTS
On H.R. 2416 THE JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

November 12, 1987

My name is Bruce Craig, Cultural Resources Coordinator for the National Parks and Conservation Association, a private nonprofit membership organization founded 68 years ago. Through our organization's diverse activities, we seek to promote the preservation, protection and public understanding of our nation's National Park System.

Mr. Chairman, our Association appreciates the opportunity to testify on H.R. 2416, legislation which seeks to establish the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and National Preservation District in Plains Georgia. NPCA is pleased to support this legislation as amended and passed by the House of Representatives on October 5 1987. However, we would like to suggest report language for the bill.

In the past NPCA has supported legislation designating National Historic Sites for all living former Presidents. Today, we support enactment of H.R. 2416 in part because we believe it can serve as a model for subsequent legislation which could set aside suitable National Historic Sites for Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and other future Presidents. This bill contains important provisions that should be a part of all legislation establishing National Park Service sites for former Presidents---preservation of sites principally associated with an individual's Presidency, a Federal/state and local "preservation partnership" to preserve historic sites of secondary significance (ie Plains High School); convening a distinguished group of historians and scholars to assess the life and times of the President and the establishment of an advisory commission to provide advice on the interpretation of the site.

NPCA believes that because an individual serves as President of the United States, this in and of itself is sufficient reason to designate a National Historic Site for that individual. Legislation seeking to designate any Presidential National Historic Site should seek to preserve and interpret the institution of the Presidency. The act of designation should also constitute a neutral recognition of the historical importance of a specific presidency. All former Presidents, regardless of popularity, deserve to be treated equally and fairly with respect to the creation of National Historic Sites.

National Parks and Conservation Association
1015 Thirty-First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007
Telephone (202) 944-8530

Section 1-(a)-(3)

Presidential sites such as Jimmy Carter NHS should be preserved because of their potential to interpret broad historical themes relevant to American society. Presidential sites lend themselves not only to the preservation of the historic resources associated with a President but also to interpretations of what historians term the "new social history" which stresses environmental, cultural and socio-economic influences of history on the lives of ordinary people.

This bill certainly lends itself to more than a commemoration of the Carter Presidency---because of the size of its land base Jimmy Carter NHS will be unique as it preserves and provides for the interpretation of a key part of our nations heritage---the story of our rich agricultural heritage that may be found in our rural communities in virtually every state of the union.

Jimmy Carter NHS lends itself to an interpretation of several themes including the history of a small rural southern town. The emergence of the new south, the role of agriculture and the agricultural economy are also stories that can be told. But perhaps most important, the site lends itself to the story of the decline of a segregated south and the evolution of the civil and human rights movements; these are aspects of American history that President Carter had a profound effect on. Presidential sites indeed can be used to interpret changes in attitudes and life styles of the American society. Therefore, we recommend the insertion of language in the report to reflect these important themes.

Section 1-(b)-(2)

Presidential sites need not always include birthplaces, related landscapes or even structures; what should be preserved is the site(s) with the most integrity as to historic fabric, and significance to the individuals Presidency. In this case, President Carter is more closely associated with his hometown community in which he lived than any other President; therefore, it seems wholly appropriate to take a comprehensive preservation approach to preserve and interpret the community in which he lived---Plains Georgia.

At Jimmy Carter NHS, NPCA supports the preservation of the site of the residence, the boyhood home, the Plains railroad depot, Gnann House, the Plains High School and appropriate scenic easements. In our comments before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands last September, we testified that the Plains High School should be included within the National Historic District but not within the National Historic Site. Today, we support the inclusion of the Plains High School as part of the National Historic Site because House amendments addressed our major concerns. These concerns related not so much to the sites historic association with Jimmy Carter, but to the costs of renovation. As passed by the House, this bill provides for acquisition of the High School property only through donation. Secondly, it provides that 40% or more of the estimated 1.5 million dollars needed for the structure's restoration will come from non-Federal entities. We feel that, a partnership of Federal and non-Federal entities including the State government, local historical and preservation organizations should play an active role in the preservation of the national heritage.

Section 2

We support Section 2 of the bill which establishes the Jimmy Carter National Preservation District. The District is consistent with current efforts to develop partnerships between Federal Government and State and local interests for the purpose of protecting all relevant sites as well as maintaining associated historic scenes. The National Preservation District is one way that the Federal government can work with the state and local agencies to protect all important sites associated with the former President.

Section 2-(a)

Our comments relating to appropriate themes that deserve attention also have application to this section (see Section 1-(a)-(3) above).

Section 3-(b)

NPCA supports the inclusion of the provision to enable the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Georgia for the operation and use of the State of Georgia Visitor Center. However, we recommend report language state that the NPS may operate a separate park visitor center if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the visiting public.

Section 3-(c)

We believe "oral history" in this paragraph is too limiting; we recommend report language be inserted that would allow the Secretary to gather "any historical records and materials, including documents, correspondence, oral histories, furnishings and memorabilia associated with the historic site, its occupants and environs."

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the Subcommittee may have.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Craig, did the House include language like that?

Mr. CRAIG. The House made mention, let me check. I have a copy of their report.

Senator FOWLER. That is a very helpful suggestion.

Mr. CRAIG. It always strengthens the position of people who have an interest in these things, if language can be found in both House and Senate versions.

Senator FOWLER. We just found in the report language, Section 3(b) authorizes the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Georgia to operate or use the State of Georgia Visitors Center in Sumter County. The Committee does not intend such cooperation with the State of Georgia to preclude the operation of a separate National Park Service visitors center.

And that is the language you are urging?

Mr. CRAIG. Yes.

Senator FOWLER. I have no problem with that. I think it is a good suggestion.

All right, our friends from Plains, Councilman Millard Simmons.

STATEMENT OF MILLARD SIMMONS, COUNCILMAN, CITY OF PLAINS, GA, AND MEMBER OF PLAINS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TRUST

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you. If you hear me today, I do not have a cold, it would be the jitters in me. That would be the only reason.

Senator FOWLER. Well, you are amid the home folks here. A few staffers we are going to baptize over here, make them be supportive.

Mr. SIMMONS. Senator Fowler, it is a very distinct honor and privilege to testify before you today. And all the residents of Plains, Georgia thank you for your time and effort in getting legislation passed to make Plains, Georgia, the home of our 39th president, a National Historic Site.

As a member of the Plains City Council, I speak on behalf of the residents of this small but famous town.

Each member of the Council was very excited to hear that these meetings are taking place, and that we could very possibly be on the last leg of a long journey to designate President Carter's home and other points as a National Historic Site.

The officials and residents of the City of Plains will make every endeavor to cooperate to the fullest with any undertaking that is made for such a worthy cause.

It is also my good fortune to be a charter member of the Plains Historical Preservation Trust. This group is comprised of people who are very dedicated and who have given of themselves many times, working to preserve for our Nation and the world an era and an area that could quickly disappear, overgrown by the vines of time if we do not intervene.

I came to Plains as a young man from Americus, Georgia, which is just a hop and a skip down the road. President Carter graduated from Plains High School the year before I graduated.

As a young man, President Carter was just as impressive on the basketball court as he was with tough undertakings later in life. All of this reflects back to this school and these surroundings.

Miss Julia Coleman, who was the school principal, and also an unforgettable teacher, made a lasting impression on many students who roamed the halls of this school, which we should preserve for all America.

Every student was taught that they could become President of the United States, no matter who they were, how rich or how poor, how torn their clothes might be. For as she said on so many occasions, no matter how dark the day may be, behind each cloud the sun still shines.

Gentlemen, it did shine and for a boy brought up under the same conditions as I just referred to, not rich in money, but rich in family love, pride, and a desire to reach higher plateaus, these are the surroundings we think should be preserved for the people of our country and the world.

Think of the young people, maybe from a public housing project, one who is brought up on welfare, one from a wrecked home, and other conditions too numerous to mention, this would be an inspiration for all to see this story unfold here in Plains. We hope that our pride in our native son and what he accomplished could restore pride in some who have lost it.

The Plains High School is now owned by the City of Plains. Consolidation in the county several years ago caused it to be vacant. This building will be turned over to the National Park Service upon request.

In my role as a citizen of Plains, I have had the pleasure of working as a rural carrier for the Postal Service for 20 years, and the last nine years as postmaster. I have hand-stamped postcards and letters for people from all over the world.

Most people I could understand, some I could not understand their language at all. But I knew they were in Plains for the same reason as the Americans were, to possibly get a glimpse of President Carter, his home, or just anything they could take back home with them that would relate to a great president.

Shucks, they would even want to take a picture of me and get my autograph. So you see how starved people are to be a part of our history. Gentlemen, I hope we can give it to them in a way that it will be preserved for generations to come.

The Plains Historical Preservation Trust has made great strides in setting the groundwork for what we hope will come to pass. Signs along highways have been erected, brochures have been designed and printed, guiding the tourists along the points of interest.

President Carter's campaign headquarters, the old depot which so many millions of Americans saw on television, has been donated to the Plains Historical Trust, who, with the help from interested persons from all over America, have made a very interesting museum which relates to President Carter and this era in time. The Trust is ready to give the depot to the National Park Service at any time.

President Carter grew up on a traditional south Georgia town three miles from Plains. He was reared on this farm at a time

when it was common to come home after school, take off your best patched pants, put on some more than could not be hurt by plowing the mule, and work in the fields until suppertime.

Then there was firewood to carry in and other chores before eating and then studying lessons for the next day of school. There was also the joy of roaming the woods, hunting, fishing, and looking for arrowheads.

This boyhood home still stands. We hope it may be preserved for future generations to see. The Historical Trust has been approached by the owner who is willing to sell the house and 15 acres of land.

President and Mrs. Carter have already made arrangements for their present home to be turned over to the National Park Service at their death.

Gentlemen, I know there are facets of this program we have not brought out, but they are all good facets. We, the citizens of Plains, Georgia, do realize though that as the moon starts out each quarter over this great Nation and it gradually builds up until it is full, rich, and bright to enlighten the path for all to see at times when the sun has faded.

So it is with our President Carter. His light has grown over the years until it is in full bloom. His past accomplishments have touched the world. Let us help keep it shining. It will brighten our path more than his.

Thank you again for allowing me to appear before you. For all of us I implore you to approve this legislation to establish a National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains, Georgia.

We pledge our full support in this great undertaking. Thank you. And this concludes my testimony. And I will answer any of your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Simmons follows:]

TESTIMONY FOR HEARING ON HISTORICAL SITE IN PLAINS, GEORGIA

Senator Fowler and other Distinguished Committee Members:

It is a very distinct honor and privilege to testify before you today, and all the residents of Plains, Georgia thank you for your time and effort in getting legislation passed to make Plains, Georgia, the home of our 39th President, a National Historic Site.

As a member of the Plains City Council, I speak in behalf of the residents of this small but famous town. Each member of the Council was very excited to hear that these meetings are taking place and that we could very possibly be on the last leg of a long journey which would designate President Carter's home and other points as a National Historic Site. The officials and residents of the City of Plains will make every endeavor to cooperate to the fullest with any undertaking that is made for such a worthy cause.

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who roamed the halls of this school which we should preserve for all America. Every student was taught they could become President of the United States, no matter who they were, how rich or how poor, how torn their clothes might be, for as she said on many occasions, no matter how dark the day may be, behind each cloud the sun still shines. Gentlemen, it did shine and for a boy brought up under the same conditions as I just referred to, not rich in money but rich in family love, pride, and a desire to reach higher plateaus. These are the surroundings we think should be preserved for the people of our country and the world. Think of the young people, maybe from a public housing project, one who is brought up on Welfare, one from a wrecked home, and other conditions too numerous to mention. This will be an inspiration for all to see this story unfold. Here in Plains we hope that our pride in our native son and what he accomplished could restore pride in some who have lost it. The Plains High School is now owned by the City of Plains. Consolidation in the county several years ago caused it to be vacant. This building will be turned over to the National Park Service upon request.

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would relate to a great President. Shucks, they would even want to take a picture of me and get my autograph. So you see how starved people are to be a part of our history. Gentlemen, I hope we can give it to them in a way that it will be preserved for generations to come.

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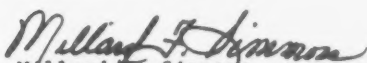
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Gentlemen, I know there are facets of this program we have not brought out, but they are all good facets. We the citizens of Plains, Georgia do realize though that as the moon starts out each quarter over this great nation it gradually builds up until it is full, rich and bright, to enlighten the path for all to see at times when the sun has faded. So it is with our President Carter; his light has grown over the years until it is in full bloom. His past accomplishments have touched the world. Let's help keep it shining. It will brighten our path more than his.

Thank you again for allowing me to appear before you. For all of us I implore you to approve this legislation to establish a National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains, Georgia. We pledge our full support in this great undertaking.

Respectfully,



Millard F. Simmons
Councilman for City of Plains, Ga.
Member of Plains Historical Preservation Trust
November 12, 1987

Senator FOWLER. Thank you, Mr. Simmons, for that very fine, persuasive testimony. Let us go to Mr. Harper, and then we will see if there is any other discussion to be had.

Welcome to George A. Harper, who is a member of the Plains Historic Preservation Trust.

**STATEMENT OF GEORGE A. HARPER, MEMBER, PLAINS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TRUST, PLAINS, GA**

Mr. HARPER. Thank you. Senator Fowler, and other distinguished Members of this Committee, I am pleased and honored to be here before you representing the people of the Plains community to ask you to establish the National Historical Preservation District in Plains.

History has already been recorded here, and all of us have the responsibility to preserve this area physically, orally, and visibly for not only this generation but for others that follow.

From these surroundings many can and see and gain a new interest in our government and Nation. Others will be given hope that they too could serve our Nation through government office, regardless of their humble background.

Plains is unique in many ways and has survived the test of time because of an underlying unity that permeates the people.

This community has been blessed with schools and churches that greatly contributed to the moral and ethical fiber of our people, and has sent out our sons and daughters to make this a better Nation in which to live.

One of the chief institutions to which we can attribute the high quality of life in Plains is the Plains High school, for which our fathers freely made bond and built.

Having served as a trustee in the school's latter and final years, and when it was subsequently closed by consolidation with the other county school, we were instrumental in placing the title in the hands of the City of Plains to later be turned over to the National Park Service.

I along with President Carter and Mrs. Carter and all their brothers and sisters attended this school from first grade through high school graduation. And two the Carter's sons graduated from this school.

In sports the school taught us to play by the rules of the game primary to winning. But also to give our best and be winners. Academically, we were also challenged by many dedicated teachers to give our best. We were prepared for and encouraged to seek higher education.

Even with all the above in mind, it is a wonder that this school can boast of a President of the United States, First Lady, a governor, two state senators, a state representative, as well as Ph.D.s, M.D.s, lawyers, ministers, accountants, bankers, farmers, teachers, nurses, and other professionals and homemakers.

It would be a shame not to preserve this building and grounds as a monument to the many who passed through and contributed to this great Nation.

There must be other elusive qualities on this plateau called Plains to attract and hold people in this community. I am the

fourth of six generations who chose to own and care for a farm and home at Plains.

There is an affinity to another farm boy who also loved, and still does, the fields and streams and woodlands of this area, even after having served in the highest office of this Nation.

Since the Plains Historical Preservation Trust was organized, provision has been made for information to the many tourists who come daily to Plains, and ask questions about the Carters, and hope to get a glimpse of them.

Signs have been erected at 27 points of interest to tourists. Also a brochure was designed and printed for a self-guided tour of the Plains area. There are five large "Welcome to Plains, Home of the 39th President" signs on highways leading into Plains.

Further, the depot museum has been accomplished. The depot was the Carter campaign headquarters, which became famous in 1976, and has been visited by people from all over the world. It was donated by the CSX Railroad System in 1986 to the Trust.

President Carter's boyhood home, located about three miles from Plains, still stands in good condition. It must be preserved and not left to deteriorate, as many of our old country homesteads have.

The Historical Preservation Trust has been approached by the present owner who is willing to sell the house and 15 acres of land.

The other site is the present home of President and Mrs. Carter. They have already made arrangements for this to be turned over to the National Park Service at their death.

To typify the interest in President Carter, I would like to recall an occasion about four years ago when I was purchasing agent for Jones Piping, Inc., a fire protection company adjacent to the Carter property.

Two young auditors from Atlanta, members of a national auditing firm, had arrived for annual audit. At the beginning, they insisted that before they left that I get them an appointment to meet and talk to President Carter.

After more persistence, I called his office and was advised that he would be over shortly. Needless to say, these were two surprised and happy auditors. And the occasion was echoed all the way up to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the parent corporation.

We the people of Plains implore you to declare this a National Historic Site under the National Park Service and pledge you our cooperation and assistance in whatever you might call upon us to do. That concludes my testimony.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Harper follows:]

TESTIMONY FOR HEARING ON HISTORICAL SITE IN PLAINS, GEORGIA

Senator Fowler and other Distinguished Members of this Committee:

I am pleased and honored to be here before you representing the people of the Plains community and to ask you to establish a National Historic Site and Preservation District in Plains.

History has already been recorded here, and all of us have a responsibility to preserve this area physically, orally and visibly for not only this generation but for others that follow. From these surroundings many can come and see and gain a new interest in our government and nation. Others will be given hope that they too could serve our nation through government office, regardless of their humble background.

Plains is unique in many ways and has survived the test of time because of an underlying unity that permeates the people. This community has been blessed with schools and churches that greatly contributed to the moral and ethical fiber of our people, and has sent out our sons and daughters to make this a better nation in which to live.

One of the chief institutions to which we can attribute the high quality of life in Plains is the Plains High school for which our fathers freely made bond and built. Having served as a trustee in the school's latter and final years, and when it was subsequently closed by consolidation with the other county school, we were instrumental in placing the title in the hands of the City of Plains to later be turned over to the National Park Service. I, along with President Carter and Mrs. Carter and all their

brothers and sisters, attended this school from first grade through high school graduation. Two of the Carters' sons graduated from this school. In sports this school taught us to play by the rules of the game primary to winning, but also to give our best and be winners. Academically we were also challenged by many dedicated teachers to give our best. We were prepared for and encouraged to seek higher education. Even with all the above in mind, it is a wonder that this school can boast of a President of the United States, a First Lady, a governor, two state senators, a state representative, as well as PHD's, MD's, lawyers, ministers, accountants, bankers, farmers, teachers, nurses, other professionals and homemakers. It would be a shame not to preserve this building and grounds as a monument to the many who passed through and contributed to this great nation.

There must be other elusive qualities on this plateau called Plains to attract and hold people in this community. I am the fourth of six generations who chose to own and care for a farm and home at Plains. There is an affinity to another farm boy who also loved, and still does, the fields and streams and woodlands of this area, even after having served in the highest office of this nation.

Since the Plains Historical Preservation Trust was organized, provision has been made for information to the many tourists who come daily to Plains and ask questions about the Carters and hope to get a glimpse of them. Signs have been erected at twenty-seven points of interest to tourists. Also, a brochure was designed and printed for a self-guided tour of the Plains area. There are

five large "Welcome to Plains--Home of the 39th President" signs on highways leading into Plains. Further, the depot museum has been accomplished. The depot was the Carter campaign headquarters which became famous in 1976 and has been visited by people from all over the world. It was donated by the CSX Railroad System in 1986 to the Trust.

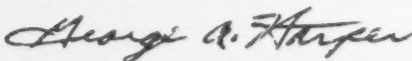
President Carter's boyhood home located about three miles from Plains still stands in good condition. It must be preserved and not left to deteriorate as many of our old country homesteads have. The Historical Preservation Trust has been approached by the present owner who is willing to sell the house and fifteen acres of land.

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To typify the interest in President Carter, I would like to recall an occasion about four years ago when I was purchasing agent for Jones Piping, Inc., a fire protection company adjacent to the Carter property. Two young auditors from Atlanta, members of a national auditing firm, had arrived for annual audit. At the beginning they insisted that before they left that I get them an appointment to meet and talk to President Carter. After more persistence, I called his office and was advised that he would be over shortly. Needless to say, these were two surprised and happy auditors, and the occasion was echoed all the way up to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the parent corporation.

We the people of Plains implore you to declare this a National Historical Site under the National Park Service and pledge you our cooperation and assistance in whatever you might call upon us to do.

Respectfully,



George A. Harper, Member
Plains Historical Preservation Trust
and Director, Plains Development Corporation
November 12, 1987

HB-2416. Companion Senate Bill S-1779.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Harper and Mr. Simmons, thank you for very fine testimony.

Staff and I were just discussing that this is an incredible opportunity to preserve and save and put under Federal and permanent protection not just an isolated building or two, but as both of you have said so eloquently, a whole environment, an atmosphere that is fast passing from the scene.

It is, in my 16 years of public office, is probably the lowest cost item that I have ever dealt with. It is almost phenomenal that we have not done this. We have been playing around with this for three years.

I am not talking billions, I am not talking about \$300 million, I am not talking about \$30 million. We are talking about \$3 million, for everything. Acquisition, development. And it is something that absolutely should be preserved and set aside in this way.

I feel very strongly that the support that we have from the people of Plains and from the National Parks and Conservation Service, from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, this will ensure that we do it and we do it with all my power this year. And I know that that means there is only six weeks left.

We invited everyone to testify, if there was any opposition. There was none. I think that the donations of the Carter family are certainly exceedingly generous. And I hope that there will be no problem as we go to the final markup and passage in the next three or four weeks.

Mr. Baker, please phone staff with that information, so that we can answer Mr. Murkowski's questions and mine, get those ball-park appraisals in, both on the approximate value of the donations and those that he asked about.

Be sure you have the same people do both so we do not have any problem there. And I would like to think that we can finish the job that should have been finished about three years ago, to do it this year.

Any other comments or reactions for the good of the order? We thank all of you, and our hearing is concluded.

[Whereupon, at 3:08 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]



APPENDIX
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

88

Texas Nature Conservancy

321 Alamo Plaza, Suite 240
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(512) 224-8774



March 5, 1987

Congressman Lamar Smith
509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

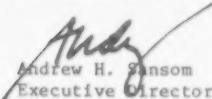
How proud I was to be sitting in your office with Joe Straus and to be discussing the addition of 67,000 acres to the Big Bend National Park at no cost to the U.S. taxpayers. I hope that you will follow-through on your desire to visit Big Bend and to float the Rio Grande and I will assure you that I am available to assist that objective in any way possible, so please call me if I can help. I might mention that the Rosillos Ranch has two lodges on it which are very comfortable and available for your use should you like to visit the preserve itself during this process.

(I have kept in close touch with Jim Carrico of the National Park Service and he is working directly with Interior to draft a bill for your office. I will be checking back with Mr. Broadbent of your office within the next few days to make sure that Interior is on tract and I appreciate again the tremendous commitment you have made to this very important project.

I might say that not only is far west Texas a tremendous potential outdoor recreation resource for our state, it is also the location of more than one third of the rare and endangered plants and animals which exist in Texas, and thus is a high priority for conservationists not only in Texas but throughout the United States, and therefore, I look forward to working with you to bring this project to a successful and happy conclusion for everyone.

Thank you again for your help on it and I look forward again to many such productive ventures in the months and the years to come. Keep up the good work

Sincerely yours,


Andrew H. Sansom
Executive Director

cc: Joe Straus, III
Jim Carico

db

STATEMENT OF ANDREW SANSON
SENIOR ASSOCIATE, THE TEXAS NATURE CONSERVANCY
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL FORESTS

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

November 12, 1987

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, I am Andrew Sanson, Senior Associate of the Nature Conservancy. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of H.R. 2325 which would include the Conservancy's North Rosillos Mountains Reserve in Big Bend National Park. I would like to strongly commend and thank Representative Lamar Smith for authoring this important legislation, which has passed the house, to add a very beautiful and biologically significant area to the National Park System at no cost to the taxpayers. I would also like to commend and thank our two Texas members of this body, Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Senator Phil Gramm, who have co-authored S-1636, which has similar objectives.

At the present time, the property is managed by the Texas Nature Conservancy, an organization of more than 8,000 Texans which, during the past eight years, has acquired and protected over 200,000 acres of Texas' most unique and significant lands. As a functioning State Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, with which you are familiar, The Texas Nature Conservancy seeks to protect the rarest and most endangered flora and fauna on the landscape of our state. Through the years our Chapter has played a major role in advancing national land conservation goals in Texas, having added nearly 80,000 acres to the National Wildlife Refuge system alone.

Understanding this well-established partnership with the Department of Interior, two extraordinary Texans, brothers Ed and Houston Harte donated the North Rosillos Mountains to the Texas Nature Conservancy in 1984 and 85. It has been the Harte brothers' desire that the preserve become part of the National Park System. We acquired the property as a working Texas cattle ranch and have continued to manage it as such while working to add it to the National Park. During the years in which we have been stewards of the property we have worked very hard to protect and improve the biological diversity of the land, to maintain and enhance the improvements on the ranch, and to intensify research efforts to identify and inventory the important biological elements, as we call them, which occur there.

It should interest members of this committee to know that our scientists have located occurrences in the North Rosillos Mountains of five plant species considered globally endangered. In addition, four individual species and plant communities have been identified are considered endangered in Texas. As the committee may be aware, more than a third of all the endangered plants, animals, and natural communities of Texas occur in the Trans Pecos region and thus it is of intense interest to conservationists throughout the nation.

The Rosillos Mountains are one of several mountain ranges in the Trans Pecos region. Volcanic in origin, they thrust upward as a red rock intrusion above the white limestone flats. Elevations range from 2,800 feet in the draws to 5,445 feet at Rosillos Peak. Most of the ranch is vegetated with the Chihuahuan Desert scrub community of creosote bush, mesquite, lecheguilla and other thorny shrubs, and succulents such as cacti and agaves.

Some alluvial flats are "badlands" which do not support plant life. The many good soil sites on the flats contain quality examples of desert grassland communities dominated by black grama, tobosagrass, bush muhly, and burrograss.

In addition to mountain lions and pronghorn antelope, Chihuahuan Desert animal species represented on the Preserve are abundant and include javelina, mule deer, rock squirrels, coyotes and foxes. Over 75 species of birds from the golden eagle to blue quail have been reported. The preserve and surrounding country have received more rain this year than at any previously recorded time. This abundance of moisture has brought a rich verdant hue to the rugged mountains.

In view of the truly national significance of this resource, we wholeheartedly support this legislation, Mr. Chairman. It will allow the Conservancy to move on to other important projects in the region and fulfill the wishes of its most generous benefactors, the Harte Brothers. Most important, the legislation will place this remarkable property in the hands of the institution best able to care for it, The National Park Service, and ensure that future generations of Americans will be able to know and appreciate it as we do today.

CALLER-TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

EDWARD H. HARTE
PUBLISHER

RECEIVED JUL 24 1987

P.O. Box 9136
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469
512/864-2011

July 21, 1987

AS

The Honorable Bruce F. Vento, Chairman
Sub-Committee on National Parks and Public Land
A-812 House Annex 1
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: HR 2325

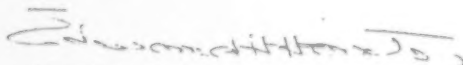
Dear Mr. Vento:

For the three decades that my brother and I owned the North Rosillos Ranch, it was obvious that the highest and best use of that property would not be in grazing but as an addition to the Big Bend National Park. It was always our hope that we could give it to the park service and that Congress would accept it.

The property has water in quantities that are rare in that desert environment. That resource would make it ideally suited to take some of the visitor pressure off the Basin area of the Park, where human demands are straining water supplies and creating problems for wildlife.

It is the sincere hope of my brother and me that the transfer of this unique property to the park service can be accomplished in this session.

Sincerely,



Edward H. Harte

EHH:kh



A HARTE-HANKS NEWSPAPER

ALBERT B. FAY
515 HOUSTON AVENUE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77007
713-227-5251

September 16, 1987

Honorable Bruce Vento, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
and Public Lands
U. S. House of Representatives
A-812 House Annex 1
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vento:

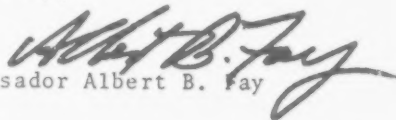
I understand that your subcommittee will soon mark-up H.R. 2325, legislation introduced by Rep. Lamar Smith to authorize the expansion of Big Bend National Park.

In 1987, I purchased 10,000 acres of land in Brewster County from the Texas Nature Conservancy. The land is part of the former Harte Ranch which would come within the authorized boundary of Big Bend Park under H.R. 2325..

I have long been an advocate of additional parkland in Texas for recreation and conservation, and it is in that spirit that I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation. The addition of the Harte Ranch property will be a great help in accomodating the ever-increasing number of visitors to Big Bend.

I applaud your efforts in moving this legislation forward.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Albert B. Fay

ABF.bp

CC: Congressman Lamar Smith

Congressman James Smith
509 Cannon Bldg
Wash. D.C. 20515

Dear Sir,

Thank you for asking Mr. Broadbent to inform us of the bill you are going to present to the Legislature concerning the North Sierrita Mountain Ranch.

We have had very good relations with the Nature Conservancy and would certainly hope this will continue with the Big Bend National Park.

We only hope the roads will be maintained, the Archeological sites be preserved and our property right protected.

We have the property for sale but would consider trading for land of equal value closer to the Hill Country. We're asking \$450,000 on our 7000000
\$1345000

Thank you again

Sincerely,
Howard E. Nehr

LAMAR SMITH
21st DISTRICT, TEXAS
JOHN W. LAMPFMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 14, 1987

809 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4238

10010 SAN PEDRO AVENUE
SUITE 530
SAN ANTONIO, 78216
(512) 229-5880

201 WEST WALL STREET
SUITE 104
MIDLAND, 79701
(815) 687-5232

23 EAST TWOHO STREET
SUITE 302
SAN ANGELO, 76903
(815) 653-3871

1008 JUNCTION HIGHWAY
KERNVILLE, 78028
(512) 895-1414

Honorable Bruce Vento, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
and Public Lands
U.S. House of Representatives
A-812 House Annex 1
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I was very pleased upon hearing that your subcommittee is to proceed with mark-up of H.R. 2325 this Thursday, September 17, and I would like to offer a few additional points of information.

My office has recently been in touch with the two landowners whose holdings would fall within the park boundaries under the bill. Former Ambassador Albert Fay, who owns 10,000 acres of the Harte Ranch, has reiterated his support for the legislation and his willingness to be included in the park boundaries. He indicated that a letter is forthcoming to you on this matter.

The other landowner is Sheriff and Mrs. David H. Nehr of Fredericksburg, Texas. They were pleased to hear about the bill and are supportive of it provided access to their property is maintained. I have enclosed a copy of their recent letter to me.

I have also enclosed a copy of a letter from Cheryl Fulcher, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Alpine, which is the seat of Brewster County, in which Big Bend and the Harte Ranch are located.

You will note that Ms. Fulcher mentions the ever-increasing growth of tourism in Big Bend. Although it may have gone unmentioned at the recent hearings, I believe the increase in park visitors, from 198,706 in 1983 to 241,713 in 1986 (a 21 percent increase over three years), is one key reason why acceptance of the Harte Ranch donation is important now.

Again, let me say how much I appreciate your efforts in moving this legislation forward, and I stand ready to assist you further in this effort.

Sincerely,

Lamar
Lamar Smith



Box 709
106 North 3rd
Alpine, Texas 79831
915 / 837-2326

Congressman Lamar Smith
509 Canyon Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
August 4, 1987

Dear Congressman Smith:

This letter is in reponse to a recent phone call I received regarding the proposed addition of the Texas Nature Conservancy to the Big Bend National Park.

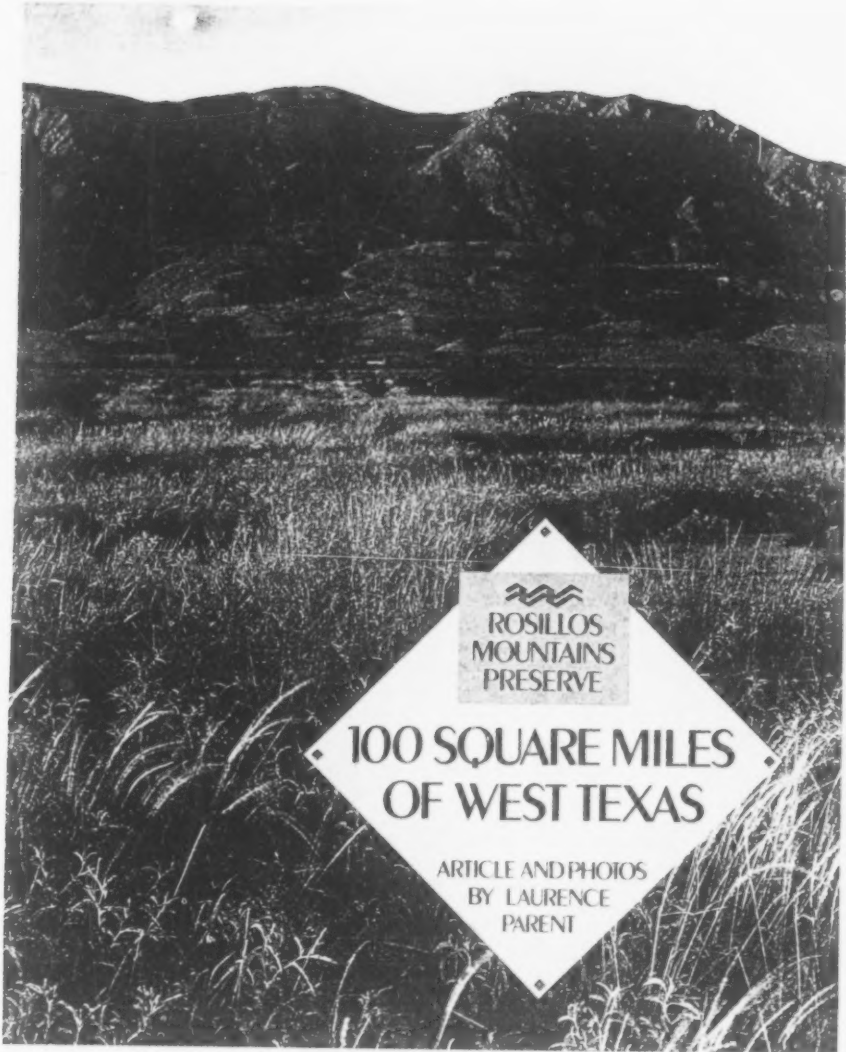
The Alpine Chamber of Commerce feels that this would be a very positive addition to the park and Brewster County, as well as the State of Texas. The Chamber of Commerce has witnessed an ever-increasing growth of tourism in Big Bend National Park over the last three years and the proposed addition can only enhance the tourist dollars spent in the park and the state of Texas.

We encourage you to vote in favor of the Texas Nature Conservancy's addition to Big Bend National Park. We are enclosing a map of the current landowners of Brewster County in hope that it will be of help to you.

If I can be of further assistance, feel free to call me at (915) 837-2326.

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. Fulcher
Executive Director
Alpine Chamber of Commerce





**ROSILLOS
 MOUNTAINS
 PRESERVE**

Covering more than 67,000 acres, the Nature Conservancy's largest preserve in the United States encompasses much of the North Rosillos Mountains of West Texas.

As Andy Price and I fumbled with the muddy tow rope, I tried to ignore the increasing rumbles of thunder emanating from the storm moving rapidly toward us from the Dead Horse Mountains. We had to reach the highway before the arroyos flooded again. Mumbling curses, I finally got the rope attached to the frame of the Honda. Quickly climbing into the car, I gave the thumbs up sign to Buster Babb, the ranch manager, to begin pulling with his Bronco. With some slipping and sliding, we pulled out of the mudhole and got set for the next low-water crossing. This was the third time we had been forced to pull out either the Honda or Andy's pickup. Yesterday's downpour had turned the good dirt

road into a four-wheel drive challenge. All weather it wasn't. If today's storm caught us, we were sure to be stuck for several more days.

We continued our trek toward the highway with the gray curtain of rain almost upon us, threatening to turn the mudholes into lakes. We reached the highway without further mishap and heaved what turned out to be a somewhat premature sigh of relief. Low-water crossings continued to slow us down for many miles, far up the highway to Marathon.

My first visit to the Rosillos Mountains did not lack excitement. Nature sometimes still has the upper hand on the Nature Conservancy's new North Rosillos Mountains Preserve. Containing a total of 67,129 acres, the sprawl-

ing ranch is the Nature Conservancy's largest preserve in the United States. Donated by Houston and Ed Harte of San Antonio in 1984, it covers much of the North Rosillos Mountain Range.

The goal of the Nature Conservancy is to preserve rare and endangered plant and animal species through purchase and protection of their habitat. The Conservancy is supported through contributions from its members and others who support its goals. Often land is donated to the Conservancy, as was the case with the Rosillos Mountains. Several rare plant species grow at the ranch and delicate ecosystems flourish at its few springs.

Adjoining Big Bend National Park, the ranch stretches southwest across the desert flats from Persimmon Gap to



the rugged flanks of the Rosillos Mountains. The ranch encompasses the northern and highest half of the Rosillos Mountains, including 5,445-foot Rosillos Peak. The mountains' weathered granite, particularly on the steep and rocky northern slopes, gives them the reddish color for which they were named, *rosillo* meaning "pink" or "rosy" in Spanish. With the elevation of the flats along Nine Point Draw only some 2,800 feet, the mountains have enough relief to dominate the area easily.

The Big Bend area is geologically complex. It is the only place in the United States where the Rocky Mountain system of the Cenozoic age overrides the Ouachita-Appalachian structures of the Paleozoic era. The region

ROSILLOS
MOUNTAINS
PRESERVE



suffered many inundations and depositions of sediment by seas, along with episodes of uplift, igneous activity and faulting. Erosion continued throughout.

The Rosillos Mountains are a large granite laccolith about 7½ miles long and six miles wide with a probable maximum thickness of 1,700 feet. Along with the overlying sedimentary rock, erosion probably has removed a considerable amount of the original thickness of igneous rock. The mountains are elliptical in shape with many canyons, most radiating from the center of the mountains.

According to Robert Mallouf, Texas state archaeologist, the earliest known signs of man in the Rosillos area date to approximately 7000 B.C. Elsewhere in the Big Bend area, evidence indi-

cates man's presence as far back as 10,000 B.C. Indians in the Rosillos Mountains area were almost entirely hunters and gatherers, living in small bands of 10 to 30 people. The small amount of prehistoric farming done in the area was found along the Rio Grande. A strong population increase is indicated from about 2000 B.C. to 500 A.D., probably due to a wetter period within the overall drying trend in place since the last ice age. With their successful nomadic lifestyle, Indians in the Rosillos area never adopted the use of pottery, although they quickly took up the bow and arrow.

The farming Indians along the Rio Grande accepted the coming of the Spaniards, but the nomadic tribes fought the invaders vigorously. The

mountains and desert away from the river were never really controlled by the Spaniards. Ultimately decimated by war and disease, the Jumano Indians were replaced or assimilated by Apaches moving south, followed by Comanches in the 1700s. The infamous Comanche Trail goes down the valley on the east side of the Rosillos Mountains. With final defeat of the Indians, Anglo ranching operations began in earnest in the 1880s.

According to research done by Virginia Wulfschlegel, the Buttrill Ranch, established in 1901, was one of the first ranches in the Rosillos Mountains. As I walked up the jeep road to the old ranch site, dust devils skittered across the creosote flats at the base of the mountains. In the heat of the July after-



ROSILLOS MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

noon, the Santiago Mountains to the north shimmered through the heat waves. The musical sound of water trickling down an arroyo welcomed me to the old ranch. Lou Buttrill had planned the location of his ranch house well. A spring, since named for him, provided a constant supply of good water that was piped to the house. Fruit trees and a large garden were planted, and plenty of water was available for livestock.

Buttrill was reputed to be an excellent horseman, an essential skill in ranch country. One rancher stated, "Lou Buttrill was one of the best riders that ever came to West Texas, and it was safe to wager that he never owned a horse that wouldn't pitch like a scalded dog." With their closest neighbors 10 miles to the west, the Buttrills had to be very self-sufficient.

In 1917, Lou Buttrill sold the ranch to Joe Graham and moved to Marathon. Due to drought and low cattle prices, the Grahams lost the ranch to the bank in 1923. The Buttrill house deteriorated and does not appear to have been occupied after the Graham family left, according to Wulffkuhle.

I scrambled across the arroyo to the ruins. The trees were long gone and the adobe walls were melting back into the ground from whence they came. As I thought about the hot and dusty two-day wagon ride to Marathon at the turn of the century, my admiration for the Buttrills grew. Just visiting the ranch in midsummer was hard work; it was difficult to imagine living here in the isolation that existed back then.

Uphill from the old ranch site lies Buttrill Spring, the largest and most reliable spring on the preserve. Except for the spring areas, almost all of the ranch is vegetated with Chihuahuan desert scrub communities dominated by creosote, mesquite, lecheguilla and other thorny plants. The canyons in the Rosillos Mountains contain woody dominants which vary uniquely from canyon to canyon. The rounded moun-

tain tops are dominated by grasses, with lower concentrations of cacti and thorny Chihuahuan scrub. According to Ben Brown of the Texas Natural Heritage Program, the flats, occupying much of the northern two-thirds of the ranch, are noteworthy for their diverse plant life. As is the case with most of the Big Bend country, early ranching operations heavily overgrazed the land and greatly changed its character. J.O. Langford stated in 1909: "Never have I seen such grass as grew in West Texas in those days. Endless miles of it stretched out in every direction. It stood knee-deep to a horse everywhere, and wherever there was room for a grass plant to grow, there one grew. Clear up to the tops of the highest ridges it grew, almost hiding the glistening rimrocks, and down on the slopes and in the valleys, only the tallest of the desert plants stood above it."

Unfortunately, by 1927, J.O. Langford had observed: "During the war, cattle prices and the prices of goats and sheep had soared. And to take advantage of these prices, ranchers had poured livestock into that vast region of grassland as fast as they could buy the animals. And now, where once I'd

thought there was more grass than could ever be eaten off, I found no grass at all. Just the bare, rain-eroded ground. And where once beautiful pools of clear, cold water had stood in Tornillo Creek, now I found only great bars of sun-baked sand and gravel."

Much of the topsoil was washed away during the periods of overgrazing, and with no vegetation to retain runoff, the creeks remain dry except during flash floods. The ranch has been lightly grazed in recent years and is slowly recovering. Like areas in Big Bend National Park, some of the flats are now badlands with nothing but bare alkaline soils or desert pavement. However, with proper management, the good soil areas with quality grassland communities could slowly spread into the bare areas.

The small, lush areas around the springs are a sharp contrast to the desert surroundings. With its high, reliable water flow, Buttrill Spring provides the ranch's drinking water and supports the largest riparian area. After exploring the old ranch site, it was a relief to walk into the shade along the little stream. Dominated by a huge old pecan, the spring was a jungle of







ROSILLOS MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

narrowleaf cottonwoods, willows, walnuts, hackberries and even a few peach trees planted by the early ranchers. Leopard frogs, startled at my approach, jumped into the small, clear brook splashing from pool to pool. With birds flitting through the trees and ferns growing from the banks, the spring was a true oasis, an island in the desert.

Although deer and javelina tracks were visible in the mud, I saw no large game at Buttrill Spring. Other recent visitors to the spring have found fresh mountain lion tracks, giving substance to the ranch's common name, Panther Ranch.

Early one morning on my second visit to the ranch, I started up to the summit of Rosillos Peak via Trough Canyon, on the west side of the mountains. It promised to be a difficult climb, especially in August and with no trail. A short distance up the canyon above Alamo Spring, a female javelina and two young crashed out of the brush in front of me. Soon, brush all around me crunched and shook as a large herd of javelina fled from me, the intruder. It was unnerving to be by myself in the deep, early morning shadow of the narrow canyon, but I continued, slowed by two more large groups of javelina before finally climbing out onto a ridge some distance later. The long, steep scramble up the boulder-strewn and cactus-covered ridge to the summit was trying, but I was rewarded with a tremendous view of the Big Bend country. The Santiago Mountains shimmered in the heat to the north, while the Chisos Mountains stood prominently directly to the south. In the far blue distance, the Sierra del Carmen and the Sierra Fronteriza thrusts into Old Mexico.

After lunch, I began the long hot descent to my truck. Arriving tired and dehydrated, I concluded that summer was not the best time for long solitary hikes in desert mountain ranges. My next trip would have to be at a cooler time of year.

The Nature Conservancy is still formulating management plans for the hundred square mile ranch. Efforts will be directed towards protecting the rare plants and the small delicate habitats of the springs. Hunting is no longer allowed. Limited grazing on the flats should allow the native grasses to continue their recovery, while raising in come to help with management expenses. A manager is permanently stationed at the ranch to patrol and maintain the property. Since the ranch is a private preserve, visits must be arranged with Ann Schnapf at the Nature Conservancy headquarters in San Antonio (512 224 8774). It is possible that the ranch eventually will become part of Big Bend National Park.

My departure on this second visit wasn't quite as frantic as it had been before. While more rains had muddied part of the road, the showers weren't as heavy and this time we'd brought a truck. As we drove away from the ranch house, the rosy morning sun hit the rugged north face of the mountains. We paused to watch several antelope just before leaving the ranch for the highway to Marathon and the modern world beyond. • •



The North Rosillos Mountains Preserve is located in Brewster County, north of Big Bend National Park. Visits may be arranged by calling 512 224-8774.

